

SB0074



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

SB0074

Introduced 1/28/2015, by Sen. Michael Connelly

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the High School State Tournaments, Competitions, and Fairness Act. Provides that the Act applies to competitions run by any person, corporation, organization, or association in this State purporting to award a State championship, State title, or the like and involving the publicly funded high schools of this State. In competitions, prohibits distinctions between schools based on race, religion, creed, or nation of origin. Prohibits barring parochial, private, charter, and magnet schools from competition or placing them at a competitive disadvantage. Provides that no publicly funded high school may participate in any State tournament or State title competition if the organizer seeks by use of a multiplier or like device to move any school that has selective enrollment based upon entrance exam scores into a higher class. Allows a tournament organizer to organize classes based on the actual number of students attending a school.

LRB099 03708 NHT 23720 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the High
5 School State Tournaments, Competitions, and Fairness Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds the
7 following:

8 (1) That, pursuant to Section 1 of Article X of the
9 Illinois Constitution, a fundamental goal of the people of
10 this State is the educational development of all persons to
11 the limits of their capacities.

12 (2) That, pursuant to Section 1 of Article X of the
13 Illinois Constitution, the State has provided substantial
14 funding to the system of public education, and that the
15 funds provided by the State have assisted the high schools
16 of this State to finance sporting competition, to pay
17 coaches' salaries, and to provide sports facilities used by
18 the public schools of this State.

19 (3) That high school sports competitions should be won
20 fairly and squarely on the fields of play, and that rules
21 and regulations designed to give any school or group of
22 schools a legislative advantage over another school or
23 group of schools should be forbidden.

1 (4) That certain organizations or associations hold or
2 claim to hold sports tournaments for the high school
3 student athletes of this State and to award State
4 championships and State titles to the winners of these
5 tournaments.

6 (5) That certain organizations holding State
7 tournaments that purport to award State championships or
8 State titles based on fair competition have passed rules
9 that have the appearance of discriminating against
10 parochial, private, and magnet schools.

11 (6) That if publicly funded schools participate in
12 sports tournaments that purport to award State
13 championships or State titles, then these tournaments must
14 be conducted consistently with the spirit and requirements
15 of due process and equal protection under Section 2 of
16 Article I of the Illinois Constitution, and that race,
17 religion, creed, and national ancestry should be
18 irrelevant to and shall have no part in the competition.

19 (7) That State titles and State championships should be
20 won on the basis of excellence on the fields of play and
21 roughly equal contestants on the fields of play, and that
22 it is inconsistent with the notions of public education
23 that any school should be barred from competition or put at
24 a competitive disadvantage by organization or association
25 rules that apply to one school in the competition and not
26 the other.

1 (8) That smaller schools cannot fairly compete with
2 substantially larger schools, and that it should therefore
3 be permissible to create classes, such as Class A and Class
4 AA, but that these classes must be based on actual
5 enrollments and not upon imaginary students.

6 (9) That devices, such as multipliers, that create the
7 illusion that a school has more than its actual number of
8 students are forbidden from being applied to schools that
9 have selective enrollment based upon entrance exam scores.

10 (10) That disputes between an organization or
11 association and any member school over recruiting
12 practices require a hearing that meets with the procedural
13 notions of due process, including an impartial hearing
14 panel, a charge, an opportunity to be heard, and the right
15 to appear by counsel.

16 Section 10. Application. This Act applies to competitions
17 run by any person, corporation, organization, or association in
18 this State purporting to award a State championship, State
19 title, or the like and involving the publicly funded high
20 schools of this State.

21 Section 15. Prohibitions. In all competitions, no
22 distinctions between schools may be made on the basis of race,
23 religion, creed, or nation of origin, and no parochial,
24 private, charter, or magnet school may be barred from such

1 competition or be placed at a competitive disadvantage. No
2 publicly funded high school in this State may participate in
3 any State tournament or State title competition if the
4 organizer seeks by use of a multiplier or like device to move
5 any school that has selective enrollment based upon entrance
6 exam scores into a higher class.

7 Section 20. Tournament organization. A tournament
8 organizer may organize classes based on the actual number of
9 students attending a school. The organizer may provide for
10 separate boys' and girls' tournaments. In determining classes,
11 boys' classes must be based on the actual number of boys
12 attending the school, and girls' classes must be based on the
13 actual number of girls attending the school. The use of
14 multipliers and like devices are forbidden from being applied
15 to schools that have selective enrollment based upon entrance
16 exam scores.